

WAIT TILL YOU SEE WHAT THEY ARE GOING TO DO TO MEDICARE

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, what have our Republican friends done since they have taken over Congress? They said they would give tax breaks to the rich. They kept their promise. They said they would increase defense spending boondoggles. They kept their promise. They said they would help the rich and powerful and told them that they would continue corporate welfare. They kept their promise.

But what have they done to the rest of us? They told senior citizens they would not touch Social Security or Medicare. They broke their promise. They told the students that they would not touch student loans or aid to education. They broke their promise. They told our veterans they would not harm their COLA's and their veterans' health care benefits. They broke their promise. They told the middle class they would not hurt the middle class. They broke their promise. They told the Nation's schoolchildren they would not rob school lunches, take them out of their mouth. They broke their promise.

In short the Republicans kept their promises to the rich and powerful. They just broke their promise to everyone else.

I say to my colleagues, "Wait until you see what they're going to do to Medicare."

PRESIDENTIAL FLIP-FLOP

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, in March 1992, then Gov. Bill Clinton was quoted regarding the issue of normalizing relations with Vietnam as saying:

The president should not just state that the resolution of the issue is a "national priority," he should make it the national priority, and direct that all agencies cooperate and resolve it. . . . Before I would normalize relations or provide assistance to any of the countries involved, they would be required to open their files and actively assist in solving this issue.

And then in October of that same year he said:

It would be "putting the cart before the horse" to normalize relations before receiving a full accounting of the prisoner situation. . . .

I ask where is that full accounting President Clinton promised before normalizing of relations would occur? Where is it?

President Clinton has indeed put the cart before the horse. He has normalized relations with Vietnam in return he got nothing.

REPUBLICANS ARE CUTTING MEDICARE TO PAY FOR TAX BREAKS FOR THE WEALTHY

(Mr. OLVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, every senior citizen in this country needs to understand what is going on here. The Republicans are going to cut \$270 billion out of Medicare. To make these huge cuts the Republicans will demand more copayments, raise deductibles, and hike premiums. I say to my colleagues, "You will wake up in the year 2000 and your \$46-a-month premium will be at least doubled. Your \$100 deductible will be more than double. You will have to pay 20 percent of any home care or rehabilitation care that you need out of your own pocket even if your only income is Social Security."

Why are the Republicans making these huge cuts? To give \$245 billion in tax cuts, yet more than half of these cuts will go to people earning more than \$100,000 a year. I say to my colleagues, "That's easily 10 times your income on Social Security."

Mr. Speaker, I say to my colleagues, "The Republicans think Medicare is the bank of the budget. They'll pull up to the bank window, withdraw your money, and put it right into the pockets of the richest Americans who simply don't care whether you get needed health care or not."

THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN LEGAL AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

(Mr. BILBRAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, America is a nation of immigrants; America is also a nation of laws. As the House begins consideration this week on a comprehensive immigration reform, we should be mindful of the distinction between legal and illegal immigration. With this in mind, our laws should reflect our desire to reward legal immigration and discourage illegal immigration.

Current law, Mr. Speaker, sends conflicting signals. Immigrants who play by the rules, observe our laws, and go through the proper legal channels wait for years to be U.S. citizens. Conversely, if an undocumented woman crosses the border illegally, gives birth to a child on U.S. soil, that child automatically becomes a citizen. The child, and by extension its parents who are here illegally, are eligible for a menu of State and Federal benefits.

When our laws punish legal behavior, but reward illegal behavior, Mr. Speaker, it is no wonder the American taxpayers demand that we redress this situation.

SENIORS HAVE REASON TO BE AFRAID OF WHAT THE REPUBLICANS ARE DOING

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, what is behind the Republicans' wild swings at Medicare? In part it is to finance a tax cut for the privileged few, but it is also a reflection of a basic Republican dislike of Medicare. Words can be very meaningful, and look at what the majority leader said yesterday about Medicare: I would like to be free to choose not to become in any extent a ward of the State.

Americans are not wards of the State when they receive Medicare. Indeed, Medicare helps make seniors independent, not dependent. Medicare helps seniors avoid becoming wards of the State and wards of their children.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans are scaring the seniors of this country, and seniors have reason to be afraid of what the Republicans are doing.

WE NEED TO GET TO WORK ON SAVING MEDICARE

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago Members on the other side of the aisle demonstrated their unhappiness with this House ending business early in the day. Yet on Monday of this week the very first thing the Democrats wanted to do after a 9-day break for the Independence Day recess was to adjourn the House.

We did not need a recess after 9 days off. We did not need to adjourn the day after a vacation. What we need to do is roll up our sleeves and work on preserving, protecting, and strengthening Medicare.

And now that very famous Democrat liquor store memo that said participants should encourage individuals to, quote, think that the GOP wants to cut Medicare, not to make it more efficient, but to hurt the elderly, end quote. The memo then states that, quote, we need to exploit this, end quote. Mr. Speaker, we do not need to exploit Medicare. We need to save it.

At the end of this month Medicare will celebrate its 30th anniversary, and the new majority of this House wants Medicare to be around for the next 30 years. While we are trying to strengthen, protect, and preserve Medicare, some just want to go home.

SMOKING GUN ON RUBY RIDGE

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, let us look at the facts: